The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
2 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1702 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 47

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

The New York Times has suddenly developed a crying jag over the plight of some fifteen million "white collar" workers who, because they are not organized, have failed to obtain wage increases permitted under the "Little Steel" formula.

When a conservative newspaper like the New York Times sheds walrus tears over the misfortune of any group of workers, we begin suspecting that someone is spreading something on too thick.

The strategy of the newspaper is obvious. It isn't even faintly interested in the welfare of these workers. Otherwise it would advise them to join a union which could get them all the rights they are entitled to under the law and the regulations of the War Labor Board.

Of course, the New York Times isn't handing out any such advice. Its purpose is merely to inflame unorganized workers against union workers, to get support from unorganized workers against the justified demands of union workers for immediate revision of the "Little Steel" formula to make up for increases in living costs since May, 1942.

"The Blame Lies In Ourselves"

Moreover, we don't for one minute accept the figures offered by the New York Times. We have extreme doubts that there are as many as fifteen million workers in America whose wages or salaries have not increased as much as 15 per cent since Jan. 1, 1941.

The fact is that many white collar workers are organized into trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor which have protected their interests fully. Thousands of office workers, for instance, are members of the AFL Office Employes Unions, which have been grouped together in a national council. Additional thousands of white collar workers belong to the various AFL unions in the Federal Government service and in the State, County and Municipal Employes Union. Government employes, of course, must depend on legislation to receive wage adjustments and their unions have succeeded in obtaining such legislation for them in most instances.

If the unorganized white collar workers have failed to make similar gains, they have no one to blame but themselves. That does not mean to say that we lack sympathy for them. Sympathy is one thing; action is another. The unions of the AFL are glad to welcome new members at any time. In fact, they spend considerable sums each year trying to organize the unorganized.

Lest this be considered a prejudiced view, we would like to call attention to what WLB Chairman Davis had to say when he was asked what underpaid white collar workers should do to get wage increases they are entitled to.

Get Wise—Organize

"Well, one way," said Mr. Davis, "is to join an organization. That is the way I would do."

Yes, the white collar workers should take this lesson to heart. They should realize by now that no worker can afford to be a rugged individualist. They should see the futility of bargaining as individuals in an industrial economy which is highly organized.

Isn't it just a silly manifestation of false pride for an office worker to consider himself above his fellow workers? Isn't he cutting off his nose to spite his face if he fails to join with other office workers in a union to protect the interest of all white collar workers?

It seems shameful to us that office workers, who have the benefits of better education, should be so far behind workers in overalls when it comes to advancement of their economic interests through organization.

Potentially, the office workers could have one of the largest and strongest unions in the country if they would only throw off the ridiculous mental hazards against joining a union which have been cleverly set up by employer propaganda.

As a member of an AFL Office Workers Union ourself, we can testify that such union membership has not interfered in the slightest degree with our independence of thought or action.

We can also testify from our personal observation that union office workers are better paid and work under better conditions than non-union office workers.

So we say to the unorganized office workers of the country—don't envy union members who are better paid. Get wise and join an AFL union yourselves!

WAR OUTPUT TOPS ALL PAST RECORDS

Nelson Praises Labor And Industry For Great October Gains

Washington, D. C.—War production registered its largest gain in six months during October, WPB Chairman Donald Nelson announced. He praised labor and industry highly for helping to speed victory by their joint efforts.

The gains scored last month have lifted the rate of war production to six and a half times the figure just before Pearl Harbor, Nelson revealed.

It was emphasized that the results are even more remarkable in view of the fact that these gains came only with time, practice and constant effort. Better management, better effort by labor, better trained workmen—all a word, 'know-how'—can be seen clearly in last month's performance.

Thus while the basic fact concerning our present war production picture, the difficulty of achieving sharp increases over the present high level, still exists, it is encouraging to realize that the know-how which has stimulated October's production will be a continuing influence from now on.

"Of the six major munitions groups, five advanced, and only one, combat and motor vehicles, declined, and that according to plan. The keynote of the month's production was that the programs which are now expanding programs made good gains—aircraft, 10 per cent; ships, 9 per cent; ammunition, 11 per cent, and communication and electronic equipment, 9 per cent. Actions, a stable program, advanced 1 percent over September. War construction, a declining program, was off 9 per cent from September."

SENATE GROUP FOR RAIL WAGE BOOST

Committee Report Rebuffs Vinson And Upholds Union Contract

Washington, D. C.—Congress believes that the 1,100,000 non-operating railway workers, who are enrolled in AFL unions, are entitled to the 8-cent hourly increase in pay awarded to them by a special Presidential Commission.

This was made clear and definite when a Senate Interstate Commerce Sub-Committee approved a resolution declaring that such an increase in pay is valid and in accord with the Railway Labor Act.

The committee held that the contract entered into on Aug. 7, 1943, by the railroad operators and the unions, which included this pay increase, "will not disturb the 'Little Steel' formula nor will it express directly or indirectly Congressional disapproval of that formula."

Thus the committee's report flatly repudiated the charge made by Economic Stabilization Director Vinson that favorable action by Congress on this question would break the "Little Steel" formula and force general wage increases throughout industry.

Both Houses of Congress are expected to approve and send to the President the resolution validating the railway wage increase. The committee members who voted for the resolution were Senators Johnson, of Colorado; Truman, of Missouri; Wagner, of New York; Scrugham, of Minnesota, and Reed, of Kansas.

Their report said, in part:

"The President's emergency board in recommending the 8-cent wage increase followed the principle and requirement written into the Stabilization Act that wage adjustments should be made when necessary to correct gross inequities and to aid in the effective prosecution of the war.

"The subcommittee finds that this is the fundamental principle involved in this dispute between Judge Vinson on the one hand and other government official plus the railroad industry on the other.

"Advice from every competent and informed source assures us that approval of the wage agreement will not weaken but will fortify the hold-the-line policy of the President."

House Set To Kill Subsidies, Forcing Food Prices Up Again

AFL Exposes Tax Bill "Joker"

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor exposed an anti-union joker in the new tax bill now being considered by the House of Representatives.

AFL President Green protested emphatically to House Majority Leader McCormack against a provision in the bill which would require labor organizations to file with the Bureau of Internal Revenue an annual return, specifying all items of income, receipts and expenditures.

Since labor organizations are exempt under existing law and also under the proposed amendments from paying income taxes, the only possible purpose for the new provision would be to force trade unions to throw open their confidential data to fishing expeditions by anti-labor Congressmen.

The House Ways and Means Committee's report on this section of the pending bill hinted that its purpose was to discover to what extent tax exempt organizations, like trade unions, engage in real estate and other business activities in competition with corporations required to pay taxes on income derived from like operations.

"These reasons are absurd as applied to labor organizations," Mr. Green declared in a letter to Rep. McCormack.

Since the House is considering the tax bill under a "gag" rule which forbids amendments from the floor, there is little hope of defeating this anti-labor provision until the measure comes before the Senate.

Send A Word To The Wise!

Your Congressman and mine are our servants. We elect them. We pay them. They are supposed to represent us.

For that reason the American Federation of Labor now ursently calls upon its 6,500,000 members to let their Congressmen know how they feel about pending legislation which will detrimentally affect the interests of American workers and their trade unions.

Tell your Representative and your Senators this:

1—That you demand approval of a comprehensive subsidy program to keep the cost of living within bounds.

2—That you insist on defeat of the tax bill "joker" which would require unions to disclose financial data for the benefit of labor-haters and anti-union employers.

DO THIS NOW!

Kaiser Praises The Closed Shop

New York City—Henry J. Kaiser, the war production wizard, declared in an interview here that the union closed shop helps to solve industrial problems.

Mr. Kaiser, whose famous shipyard plants on the West Coast are under closed shop contract with AFL unions, said that such contracts simplify matters for management. He pointed out:

"The behavior of the men becomes a direct responsibility of the union." Terming "class bitterness" a dangerous problem, Mr. Kaiser urged labor and management to eliminate it by recognizing that there should be no fear or distrust between them.

He said that it was management's job "to sell self-respect and trust for itself to the unions by showing greater interest in its people. It is the union's duty to get out the work and try to understand management's problems."

"There is no such thing as labor relations," Kaiser said. "There are only human relations in dealing with people, not impersonal problems of finance or electronics.

"There are three sides to every argument—your side, my side and the right side."

Less Government In Post-War Era Urged By Woll As Aid To Recovery

Boston.—Warnings that the American economic and political systems will be endangered if too much reliance is placed on Washington in formulation of post-war plans were sounded by Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor; Dean Donald K. David of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, and Representative Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

The AFL, Mr. Woll explained to the governors of New England States and representatives of New England business, industry and civic organizations assembled for the second New England war conference, "is opposed to the extension of paternalism and Government sponsored enterprise because such activity will create a dependency on governmental benevolence that will tend to eliminate individual incentive and rob the American people of that characteristic which sets them apart from all other people—their initiative and energy."

While war contracts are properly the primary concern of military agencies, termination of contracts and similar programs should be handled by civilian agencies on which industry, labor and the Government are represented, he declared.

"The policies and procedures followed in conversion will fix patterns and lines of development for industry and labor for the next decade or more," he said.

"From the point of view of Government, agriculture, labor and industry alike, policies followed in the termination of war contracts and the disposal of Government property and surplus materials are of vital importance in the re-establishing of our economy of free enterprise on a sound basis.

"There can be no sense of security on the part of labor or industry or the ability to make plans unless there are comprehensive policies which can be clearly understood and which can represent all interests, not just those of some branch of government."

Mr. Woll said that the American Federation of Labor believed that Congress should encourage the establishment by industry of post-war reserves for plant conversion and the payment of dismissal wages and that these reserves should be exempt from interference in the renegotiation of war contracts. Reserves, he added, should be treated as trust funds and should revert to the Treasury if not used for the announced purposes.

Mr. Woll served notice that labor will request, at the war's end, that the transition from overtime war production to the normal work week be made "without reduction in weekly earnings."

Labor is ready to work with management in the development of post-war plans and is alert to dangers which will face the enterprise system in the post-war years, such as unemployment and an increase in class consciousness, Mr. Woll declared.

Congress Ignores Warnings Of AFL And FDR, Yielding To Farm Bloc

Washington, D. C.—Leaders of the American Federation of Labor and the Government lambasted Congress with strong last-minute appeals for authorization of a comprehensive subsidy program to keep prices in check and prevent the cost of living from soaring out of control.

Despite these appeals, it was reported as this edition went to press that the House of Representatives would strike out all subsidy provisions from the pending bill.

Egged on by the farm bloc and by powerful groups demanding inflationary profits, the members of the House appeared determined to ignore all warnings as to the disastrous effects of eliminating subsidies.

AFL President William Green, in a letter to House Majority Leader McCormack, declared that it seemed inconceivable that Congress should fail to authorize subsidies at this critical stage of the nation's war economy when destructive inflation menaces the consuming public.

Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, in a nation-wide radio address, charged that Congress would be betraying the American people and treating the Economic Stabilization Act as a "scrap of paper" if it neglected to pass the subsidy program.

OPA Administrator Bowles issued a flat warning that if Congress ditches subsidies prices of many basic food commodities will be boosted almost immediately and the cost of living mount at least another 10 per cent.

War Production Board Chairman Nelson pointed out that Government expenditures for all kinds of supplies and munitions will be increased heavily by failure of Congress to back up the price control program with subsidies.

Disregarding these warnings and the most powerful message ever sent by President Roosevelt in behalf of subsidies, the House of Representatives was lined up solidly in opposition as this edition went to press.

It was reported that sentiment in the Senate also was in favor of throwing the subsidy program overboard.

If such action should take place, it is considered certain that the President will veto the pending bill and send it back to Congress. Then, it is expected that an attempt will be made to effect a compromise providing for limited subsidies.

However, organized labor feels that unless a real and comprehensive subsidy program if authorized, Congress will be repudiating its own promises to the people contained in the Economic Stabilization Act of 1942.

That law declared that prices and wages were in equitable relationship as of Oct. 1, 1942, and should be stabilized at the levels then prevailing.

While the "Little Steel" formula has kept wages at last year's levels, prices have continued to go up. Retention of the subsidy program would be the signal for even more dangerous inflation of prices and would unquestionably force abandonment or revision of the "Little Steel" formula.

CALIFORNIA COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF TEAMSTERS

San Francisco, Calif.—The California supreme court reversed a lower court decision which gave $20,000 damages each to George Hand and Louis Marshall, San Joaquin valley dairymen, against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Stockton, Calif.

Hand and Marshall, operating the Happyhome Dairy, charged that the union had ruined their business by a series of articles in The Stockton Labor Journal against the dairy's labor policy.

In its 5 to 2 decision the Supreme Court refused them both actual and punitive damages, declaring they had the same right of free speech as the union and that they had the opportunity to make a public defense, of which they did take advantage.

ACCIDENT RATES FALL IN CONTRACT SHIPYARDS

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Maritime Commission reports a drop of 13½ per cent in the number of accident rate for its contract shipyards for the 8-month period ending in August.

Covering 79 yards, the report shows a continuing improvement which has reduced the accident rate from 37, the average for 1942, to 32 for the first 8 months of 1943.

NEW WAR LOAN DRIVE TO BE LAUNCHED JAN. 18

Washington, D. C.—Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, announced that the fourth war loan drive would open Jan. 18, with a goal of $14,000,000,000 to be raised from all types of investors.

The total sought is $1,000,000,000 less than the announced goal of the third war loan drive in September, and is $4,000,000,000 less than the $18,000,000,000 actually raised in that campaign. The fourth drive will run until Feb. 15, and all subscriptions received after Jan. 1, at the Federal Reserve banks or at the Treasury for savings bonds and savings notes will be credited to the total.

ELECTRICAL UNION GAINS THREE POWER COMPANIES

Washington, D. C.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers reported that the union had won NLRB elections to choose a bargaining agency at the Public Service Company of New Hampshire in Portsmouth and Somersworth, N. H.; at the Stamford Division of the Connecticut Power Company and at the Colgate Division of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco.

The brotherhood represents practically eighty per cent of the nation's utility workers.

Naval Leader, After Defeating Japs, Hails Labor For Superior Equipment

Washington, D. C.—The Commanding Officer of a U. S. Naval Task Force which scored a smashing victory over the Japs in the Pacific has sent a combat dispatch to the Navy Department praising the battle equipment produced by America's workers.

The dispatch, sent to Rear Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, testified to the outstanding backing the men and women of the Production front are giving to the fighting men of the fleet. It said:

"The 'X' Destroyer Squadron and the 'X' Cruiser Division have just completed thirty-six hours of nearly continuous battle, starting with two shore bombardments down the throat of the enemy, continuing with a three hour night sea battle against heavy Japanese forces and ending by beating off an attack of seventy to eighty Japanese planes. All this in enemy waters. Our casualties were small. The enemy's casualties in all battles were large. The enemy was routed.

"Ordnance equipment worked so well we forgot about it. Not a single gun stoppage of all the ammunition fired, hot barrels or burning. We are proud of our magnificent seamen. We are also proud of our equipment. It hits fast, hard, accurately and, oh, so effectively.

"Will you convey our appreciation to the men and women who by their skill and conscientious efforts have given us the means to win our battles. May God bless them."

AFL War Fund Donations Set Record

New York City.—An all-time record for AFL contributions to war relief and community needs is well on the way, according to nation-wide reports on this year's campaign in support of the National War Fund, now reaching the Labor League for Human Rights.

In spite of the handicap of increased taxes and the higher cost of living, many key cities from coast to coast have already topped AFL contributions considerably in excess of those made in last year's campaign, when organized labor was acknowledged to be the largest single giver to Community Chests and war relief drives.

One of the outstanding contributions so far made for war relief work is credited to the Consolidated Aircraft factory in San Diego, California, where AFL workers donated a one-hour-a-week sum of $151,000, in addition to management's contribution of $100,000. Organized labor was leaders in San Diego have declared their intention of returning to Consolidated Aircraft and continuing the campaign, and are confident that additional contributions will carry the total amount collected from this one plant to well over the $200,000 mark. Apart from the Consolidated figure, the average contribution to the campaign by AFL members in the city of San Diego as a whole now stands at $14.80.

AFL workers at the Navy shipyard in Charleston, S. C., have turned in a total of $273,648, more than three times their quota of $25,000. The 1,900 employees of the Charleston Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, under contract to the AFL, have so far raised $12,500, exceeding their set goal by $6,000. The overall goal for the city of Charleston has been exceeded by $75,500, and H. W. Hopke, chairman of the Charleston County United War Fund, has declared that labor was "very influential in the success of the campaign."

Other cities have come close to and passed the spectacular achievements of San Diego and Charleston. Watertown, N. Y., with results received from only two unions, the Building Trades and the Machinists, has raised $13,000, an outstanding figure for a city of 35,000, and a contribution of $2,500.

In Toledo, the iron workers took first place among the AFL unions of the city in the early days of the campaign, with a contribution averaging $5 per capita. Elizabeth, N. J., now in the mid-point of its campaign, reports a collection of $15,000, an increase of more than $20,000 over 1942. AFL leaders in Elizabeth are confident that at least $18,000 will be added to that total before the close of the campaign.

Typographical Union To Vote Nov. 30 On Reaffiliation With Federation

Newark, N. J.—The International Typographical Union will vote on the question of reaffiliation with the AFL in a special referendum to be held throughout North America, on Tuesday, November 30th.

Announcing the ballot, Harry M. Horrmann, Chairman of the AFL Referendum Committee of Newark Typographical Union No. 103, reports from all parts of the country indicate a strong swing in sentiment for reunion with the AFL. This is particularly true in the larger Typographical Unions such as New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia, St. Louis and the 24 typo local unions of New Jersey.

The basis for settlement of the ITU-AFL controversy rests upon the absolute guarantee by the last AFL convention of the autonomous rights of the Printers' Union, as well as cancellation of all past indebtedness of the ITU to the AFL. The Typographical Union will pay per capita tax of 1½ cents per member to the AFL, as of the date of affiliation, which involves no increase in dues to ITU members.

Newark Typographical Union, in cooperation with 153 other locals of its International, has carried on an intensive campaign throughout the United States and Canada in an effort to bring back this union to the fold of the American Federation of Labor.

Keifer's Portrait of Furuseth Wins Entry In Seamen's Art Exhibit

New York City.—A jury of distinguished artists gave high praise to the entry of Joseph J. Keifer of Seattle, Washington, a member of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, in the second annual merchant seamen's art exhibition which is to tour the United States under the auspices of the United Seamen's Service. The picture he submitted is a portrait of Andrew Furuseth, founder of the SUP.

More than 150 paintings were submitted by seamen artists for judging and seventy were chosen by the jury. The exhibition will open at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington on November 28. After a month in Washington, the exhibition will tour the principal cities of the country, and a selection of works from the show will go to London.

Abe Sloman Kiefer who lives at 1623½ 43rd Avenue North, in Seattle, has been working in oils for less than a year and has had no formal training in the graphic arts. While many seamen with similar technical backgrounds submitted work for the exhibition, which in its final form is composed of works of really high calibre, the portrait by Brother Keifer was considered outstanding in its class.

RAILWAY CLERKS WIN BUS TERMINAL POLL

Los Angeles, Calif.—Following an election in which the employes of the Central Bus Depot, operated by the Santa Fe and Burlington Transportation companies, registered a 100 per cent vote for the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, the National Labor Relations Board certified the brotherhood as the bargaining representative for the employes.

$4,000 BACK PAY WON FOR UNION MACHINIST

A United States Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a National Labor Relations Board order requiring the Western Cartridge Company of East Alton, Ill., to reinstate a member of the International Association of Machinists with $4,000 in back pay, from the time he was discharged, in 1941, for leading an organization drive at the plant.

WAR LABOR BOARD ORDER UPHOLDS AFL UNION SHOP

Washington, D. C.—The War Labor Board has unanimously ordered that a union shop clause be retained in a contract between the Weber Showcase and Fixture Co. of Los Angeles and four AFL building trades unions.

The company had claimed that the union shop clause and the contract were terminated when the union asked for a reopening of the contract under a provision giving either party the right to serve notice of a desire to "modify, amend or terminate it."

The WLB found that, on the contrary, the record showed that the "modify" intent was not to terminate the contract, but to modify and amend it. The board therefore ordered employes who were hired during the period in which the company claimed that it was not bound by the union shop clause, to become members of the union in good standing within two weeks or lose jobs elsewhere.

INJURIES KEEP 50,000 FROM EMPLOYMENT DAILY

Washington, D. C.—More than 50,000 manufacturing workers are absent from their jobs every day because of industrial injuries, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins reported.

"Industrial injuries disabled approximately 69,000 manufacturing workers during August with a resulting loss of 1,750,000 man-days of production," she said. "This loss, which does not include any allowance for the continuing economic effect of the many deaths and permanent physical impairments, is equivalent to full time employment during August for 58,000 workers."